Tahquamenon Falls



VISITOR



Tahquamenon Falls State Park

2016

Tahquamenon Phenomenon



The Tahquamenon River tumbles over multiple sandstone ledges that make up the Lower Falls.

ow do you pronounce the name of this place? A past park employee came up with the phrase "Tahquamenon Phenomenon" and it stuck. Not only does it help pronounce the name of the park, but it also represents the feelings people have expressed when visiting here.

The dark, tannin-stained water falling over the 50 foot sandstone cliff at the Upper Falls produces a mesmerizing sound that can calm even the most anxious traveler. Flow rates of more than 50,000 gallons-per-second have been recorded cascading over the Upper Falls during spring snow melt – a true phenomenon indeed. Viewing platforms and overlooks provide great places to take pictures of what is perhaps the most photographed waterfall in Michigan.

The Lower Falls, located 4 miles downstream from the Upper Falls, provide a closer, more hands-on experience. Visitors can touch the water from a rented rowboat, or fish beneath the falls for smallmouth bass. These smaller waterfalls are also ideal for photography, and many visitors find a shallow portion along the trail to wet their feet or allow their dog to drink.



Visitors enjoy hands-on displays at the Fact Shack.

Seasonal changes are often what draw many visitors to seek out Tahquamenon. The roar of spring flow is drastically different from the quiet of winter, as the deep snow dampens the sound of this mighty waterfall. The Lower Falls, completely enveloped in ice and snow, appear as only small, white hills during the cold winter months.

Relatively unchanged through the years, Tahquamenon Falls has created special memories for the millions of people that have walked the trails, rowed a boat to the Lower Falls Island, have eaten at the restaurant, or camped in the campgrounds. The park is a place many return to with their friends and family to share their experiences and create new memories.

Whether you spend the day hiking the River Trail between the falls or relaxing at your campsite, soaking up the U.P. atmosphere, Tahquamenon Falls will continue to be a phenomenon for countless visitors who come to enjoy the park.



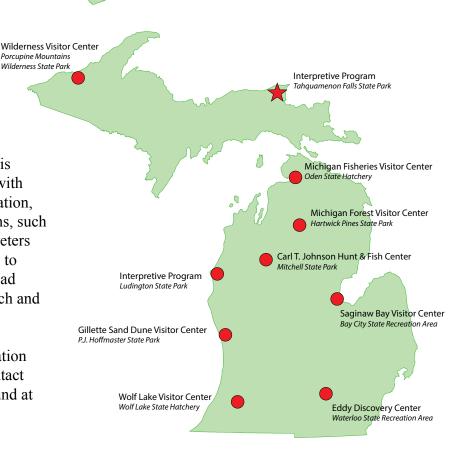
Upper Falls, May 2014.

Find a DNR Visitor Center near you

The Michigan DNR currently has nine year-round interpretive programs scattered around the state, plus a summer program at the Oden State Fish Hatchery. Each site highlights a unique aspect of Michigan's natural resources.

One of these interpretive programs is found here at Tahquamenon Falls, with programs focused on outdoor recreation, local wildlife and unique ecosystems, such as bogs and waterfalls. Staff interpreters design and present nature programs to visitors, schools and universities, lead hikes and tours, and provide outreach and support to their local communities.

Check out what's going on at a location near you. Directions, hours and contact information for each site can be found at mi.gov/dnrvisitorcenters



Welcome to Tahquamenon Falls State Park. DNR park staff takes pride in making sure your experience is enjoyable. I hope you can take time to speak with one of our employees or attend an interpretive program to learn more about the unique natural features of the park.

Some of this year's improvements include updating the Lower Falls boardwalk and viewing platforms to increase accessibility, incorporating a canoe/kayak launch while controlling erosion and renovating the old assistant manager residence into a second lodge. We also recently updated the park management plan, which guides future development and actions within the park.

Many of these improvements were suggested by our campers and visitors, and I look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition.

Enjoy your time at Tahquamenon and come back soon.

Craig Krepps
Park Manager



Tahquamenon Falls State Park State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Phone/Web: (906) 492-3415 michigan.gov/TahquamenonFalls michigan.gov/TFallsEducation

Mailing Address: Tahquamenon Falls State Park 41382 West M-123 Paradise, MI 49768





The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future

Support Michigan State Parks with a **Recreation Passport**

By purchasing the Recreation Passport for \$11 when you renew your license plate registration with the Secretary of State, you'll have entry to experience state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, non-motorized trails, boat launches and hundreds of Passport Perks shopping discounts from around the state. You'll also support historic and cultural sites in state parks and grants for neighborhood parks.

Check "YES" for the Recreation Passport when you renew your license plate at a Secretary of State branch office, self-service station, by mail or online. It's valid until your next vehicle plate renewal date. And that's good for you and great for Michigan!



Hiker Shuttle Service



Tahqua Trekker shuttle van

The Tahqua Trekker is a privately-owned shuttle and carspotting service that operates within Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The shuttle primarily transports visitors hiking the 5-mile River Trail between the Upper and Lower Falls back to their vehicle or **Snowshoe race** campsite.

The Tahqua Trekker shuttle is stationed at the Upper Falls parking area and at the beginning of the Lower Falls boardwalk. The shuttle operates daily, beginning at 1 p.m., from June 18 to Sept. 5 and Fridays and Saturdays from Sept. 9 to Oct. 9.

Shuttles leave every 30 minutes. Departure times are posted at shuttle pick-up locations. Cost is \$19 for one person, \$1 for each additional person in your party. Tahqua Trekker accepts cash or credit cards. Tickets can be purchased from the driver on-site before or after hiking.

Other shuttle opportunities include paddling the Tahquamenon River or hiking along the 15-mile stretch of North Country Trail within the park. Ask the Tahqua Trekker driver or check the website for more information: trailspotters.com

2016 Special Events

Two Hearted Trail Run

June 25 – Muskallonge Lake & Upper Falls

Scenic long-distance run along the North Country Trail, with the 50K and marathon distances beginning at Muskallonge Lake State Park and finishing at the Upper Falls. Half marathon course starts and ends at the Upper Falls. Register for this inaugural race online at greatlakesendurance.com.

Tahqua Trail Run Aug. 6 – Upper Falls

This popular 25K trail race follows the North Country Trail along the Tahquamenon River, beginning near the Rivermouth and ending at the Upper Falls. An 8K race will also will take place, starting at the Lower Falls and ending at the Upper Falls. These races are sponsored by Great Lakes Endurance. Please register online at greatlakesendurance.com.

Wilderness Canoe Race

Sept. 17 – Lower Falls

This 17-mile professional canoe race begins at the Lower Falls and finishes at Whitefish Bay near the Rivermouth Campground. The event is hosted by the Michigan Canoe Racing Association and the Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Visit miracing.com for more information.

Hike Between Da Falls

Sept. 24 – Lower Falls

Strap on your hiking boots and enjoy the most popular trail in the park, the 5-mile River Trail. A free shuttle will transport participants from the Lower Falls to the trailhead at the Upper Falls. The River Trail is rated moderately difficult and includes stairways, exposed roots and steep inclines. Join members from the local North Country Trail chapter at the Lower Falls before and after the hike to take part in activities, crafts and more.

Harvest Festival

Oct. 8 – Lower Falls

Join us for the most popular event of the year! Events include carving pumpkins, campsite decorating, hayrides, costume contests, trick-or-treating and more. Families and friends have made camping during Harvest Festival a tradition. Both Lower Falls campgrounds (Hemlock and Portage) are included during Harvest Festival events. Make your campsite reservation early; this weekend books fast.

Upcoming 2017 Events Roadtrek winter camping adventure Jan. 20-22 – Lower Falls

Are you interested in winter camping, but not interested in trying it alone? Reserve a site in the Hemlock Campground with a fun group of enthusiastic winter campers. Many of these participants travel to the park in various Roadtrek RV units, while some bring travel trailers or even tents. Check out roadtreking.com for more information on past winter camping events.

Snowshoe hikes and lantern lit night ski **Every Saturday in February – Upper Falls**

Come out and borrow a free pair of snowshoes or take part in a guided afternoon snowshoe hike. There is also a 1-mile lantern lit ski/snowshoe trail, a 4-mile groomed cross country ski trail, marked snowshoe trails, and a packed walking trail to view the falls without snowshoes. Warm up by the bonfire, and complete your visit with a trip to the Tahquamenon Brewery and Pub,

Feb. 20 – Upper Falls

Winter trail race with 5K and 10K distances available. Enjoy running along a wide, packed, groomed trail through the snow-covered forest at the Upper Falls. Register online at greatlakesendurance.com.



Tahqua Trail Run start



Start of the 2-person canoe race



He hiked AND cleaned up the River Trail





Roadtrek winter camping adventure





Winter Roadtrek campers enjoy a guided snowshoe hike to the Lower Falls.

Interpretive Programs



Visitors enjoy an interpreter-led Upper Falls guided tour.

Looking for a fun way to enhance your visit to Tahquamenon? Attend a program given by a park naturalist. A full schedule of interpretive programs and guided hikes are offered throughout the summer. Get your feet wet catching aquatic critters during the River Hunt, try out a pair of binoculars during a birding walk, or sit back and enjoy an evening the health of the river. slide show from the comfort of your chair. Programs are designed for adults and families, with Junior Naturalist programs geared toward kids age 2-10.

Schedules are updated weekly. For a detailed schedule, stop by the campground offices, the host sites, the Upper Falls Fact Shack or the park headquarters. Schedules also are available online at mi.gov/TFallsEducation.

Some examples of programs for 2016 include:

Arrows Away

Learn how competitive the sport of archery can become during this introductory program. Participants will learn proper techniques to safely shoot a compound bow at our target range.

Survival Skills

Could you make a fire using only flint and steel? Build a shelter using only natural materials? Use a compass? Find out how to hone your survival skills during this hands-on program.

River Hunt

Get down and dirty during this popular aquatic program. Wade in the water to hunt for crayfish, insects and fish that call the Tahquamenon River their home. The River Hunt is fun for young and old alike. Discover how the species we find determine

Owl Puke Investigation

After every meal, an owl will throw up a compacted pellet of fur and bones. Become a forensic scientist and put together a skeleton based on the pellet you dissect during this fun, hands-on program.

Wild About Wolves

Michigan's gray wolf is a success story in Endangered Species Act history. Brought back from the brink of extinction, wolves now number over 600 in the Upper Peninsula. Discover the role wolves play in Michigan's landscape.

Guided Upper Falls Tour

Tahquamenon's must-see destination is even better with your own tour guide. Enjoyable commentary is provided during the 25-minute walk to the Upper Falls. Find out what pests are invading the forest, what makes the river brown and if anyone has taken the big plunge over the falls.



Archery Range Improvements

The archery range across from the Lower Falls was installed in 2012 as a trial run, to see if the program would draw interest. Since then, over 2,500 people have participated in an archery program at Tahquamenon. Due to the overwhelming response, the range was expanded in 2013 to accommodate 10 targets, allowing 12-16 people to shoot simultaneously.

Last fall, thanks to evaluation comments and volunteer efforts, a shelter was constructed at the range to provide much needed shade during the summer heat. The 40-foot-long shelter will also provide participants with a dry location between shooting flights during rainy days.

Archery programs take place twice weekly during the summer. Range instructors are certified through USA Archery and instruct participants on proper technique and safety while shooting. Compound bows and equipment is provided. All ages and abilities are welcome to the programs.



Things to do, places to see

You've arrived – so now what? Lucky for you, there **One Day** are plenty of things to see and places to explore *River Trail* – Many hikers come to Tahquamenon have, there are a variety of activities and sight-seeing locations to keep you busy.

Half Day

For those on a tight schedule, the must-see locations are the Upper and Lower Falls. The Upper Falls features a half-mile paved walkway that provides ADA-accessible viewing opportunities of the 50-foot-tall, 200-foot-wide waterfall. Take the 94 steps down to the brink for an up-close experience or the 116 steps down to the gorge for a panoramic

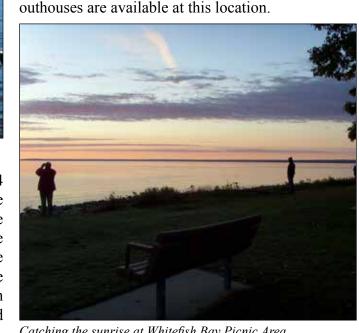


The Lower Falls rowboat rental is a popular activity.

Lower Falls – The entrance to the Lower Falls is 4 miles east of the Upper Falls along M-123. These falls are easily viewed and photographed from the paved walkway. A quarter-mile boardwalk will take you through thick coniferous forest, ending up at the viewing platforms where you can feel mist from the waterfall. Keep following the boardwalk upstream and you will find easy access to wade in the river and get your feet wet.

during your visit. Depending on how much time you to tackle the infamous "trail between da falls." This 5-mile linear trail is one of the more difficult trails in the park, due to exposed roots and hilly terrain, but is definitely the most scenic. The River Trail parallels the Tahquamenon River the majority of the way, offering multiple views for photographers and those who love the outdoors. Make sure to have plenty of water, snacks and bug spray along for the hike. A shuttle service operates Memorial Day- Labor Day for a fee. Check the schedule before you head out as times vary by season.

> Whitefish Bay – If hiking isn't your thing, take a trip out to Whitefish Bay, where the Tahquamenon river meets Lake Superior. The Whitefish Bay Picnic Area offers a shallow, sandy beach, perfect for cooling off on hot days. Enjoy the view of Canada and the northern shore of the eastern U.P. from the many benches and picnic tables at this site. Grills and outhouses are available at this location.



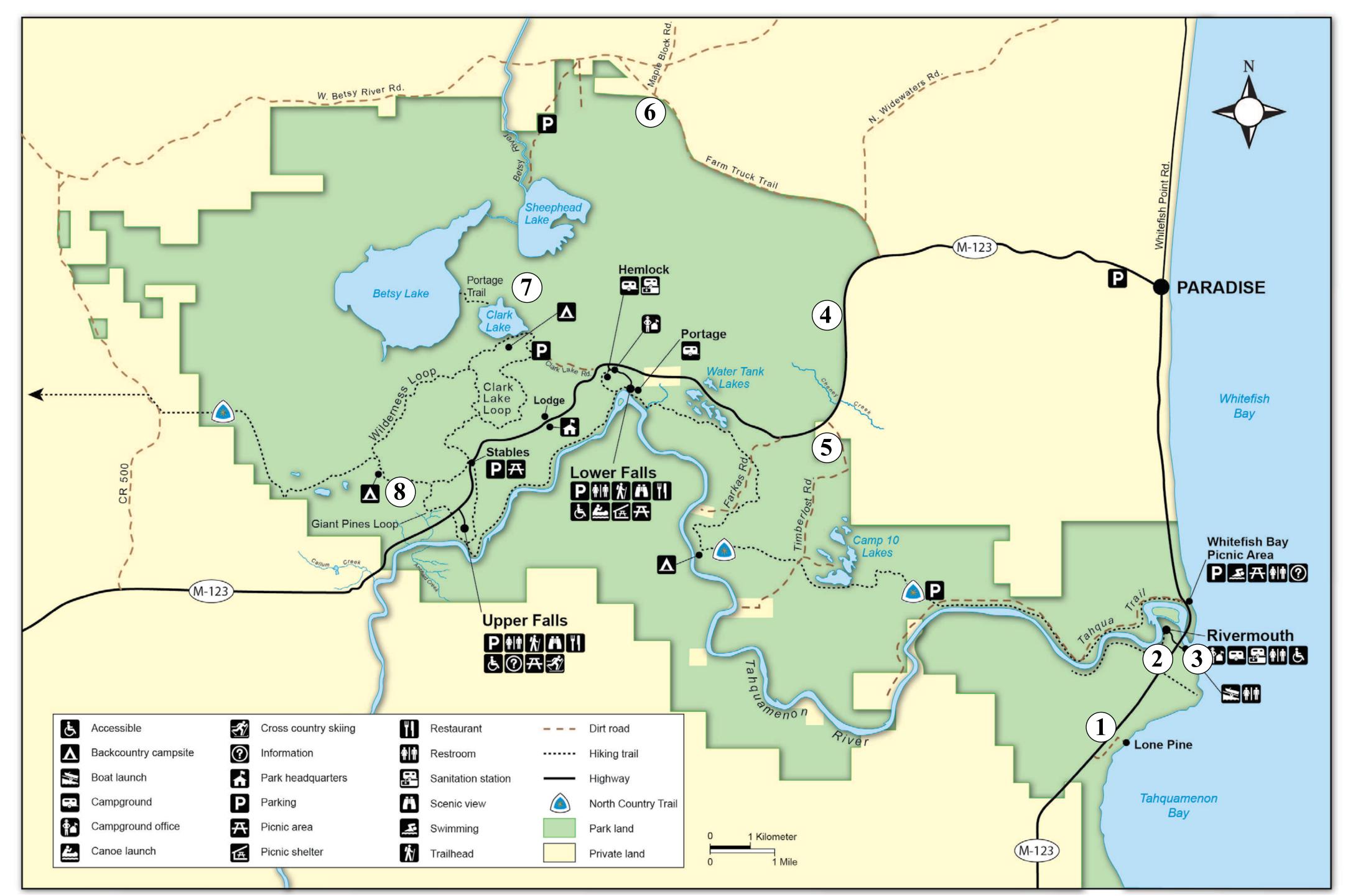
Catching the sunrise at Whitefish Bay Picnic Area.



Sandhill crane.

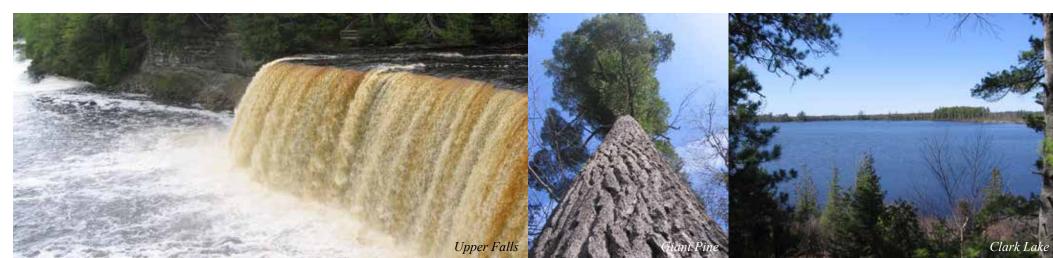
Clark Lake – After visiting the Upper and Lower Falls, take some time getting to know the wilderness of Tahquamenon. Drive, hike or bicycle down Clark Lake Road to access the hiking trail to Clark Lake. This remote inland lake is a great location for a picnic or quick snack as you enjoy the breeze on the bordering ancient sand dunes. Continue on the trail to complete the 5-mile loop through upland forest and peatland habitat. Listen for sandhill cranes and check for wildlife tracks. Clark Lake Road is an unimproved two-track with occasional two-way traffic; use caution and drive slowly.

Paddle the Tahquamenon – Rent a kayak from the Rivermouth Campground office and put in at the Rivermouth Boat Access Site, located 5 miles south of Paradise. Paddle against the gentle upstream current around Marsh Island to take in the beautiful river scenery. Ducks, geese, turtles, beaver, mink and bald eagles are often seen in this area. More adventurous paddlers can head out to the shallow waters of Whitefish Bay and explore the shoreline.



- (1) Lone Pine Access Site: From the end of the access road, overlooking Tahquamenon Bay, you can see Emerson Island. The island was the site of a large sawmill from 1882 to 1912. This is a great place to play in the warm, shallow waters of Whitefish Bay. Early morning and late evening are the best times to and benches provide a nice place to sit and enjoy the view. look for wildlife in this area.
- (3) Rivermouth Boat Launch: This site offers boat access into Whitefish Bay, where you may spot waterfowl, bald eagles, river otter and other wildlife. The sandy shoreline is a great place to hike and wade in the water. A paved walkway
- (4) Northern Peatlands: Sphagnum moss dominates the wetlands in this part (2) Emerson Foot Trail: This unimproved, rustic trail passes through black of the park, creating what is termed a northern peatland. Moose can be seen here, spruce and shrub swamp habitat following the road that leads to the abandoned along with spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, pine martens and black
- (5) **Timberlost Road:** This sandy forest road offers some of the park's best blueberry picking and wildlife watching. This road has loose sand, encroaching brush and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk; 4WD recommended.
- (6) Farm Truck Trail: For those looking to immerse themselves into true wilderness, look no further than Farm Truck Trail. Exploring the many side roads and two-tracks branching off the trail will give you the sense of being in the middle of nowhere! Make sure to get a compass, GPS and a full tank of gas before beginning your adventure.
- (7) Clark Lake: The 1.6-mile, two-track road to Clark Lake is the only road access into the Tahquamenon Natural Area. This road has loose sand and twoway traffic. Drive at your own risk. From the end of the road, follow the foot trail for half-mile to access Clark Lake.
- (8) Giant Pines: Two of the largest white pines in the park are found along the Giant Pines Trail. Estimated at over 130 years old, these are true relics of Tahquamenon. Listen for the sound of the pileated woodpecker and the sweet song of the wood thrush as you walk through the old-growth forest.





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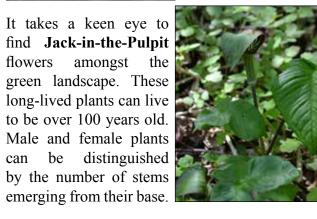
Wildflowers

The landscape of Tahquamenon Falls is dotted with dabs of color during the spring and summer months. Look for these common wildflowers growing along roadsides, trails and at the campgrounds.

Picking wildflowers is harmful to the local ecosystem and against state park rules. Butterflies, bees and birds rely on the nectar produced by wildflowers for food, facilitating pollination and the next generation of plants.



Frout lilies are the first sign of spring in the park. Their speckled leaves begin to show at the end of April, coinciding with the beginning of trout fishing season. Downward facing flowers entice ants and other ground-dwelling nsects to pollinate.





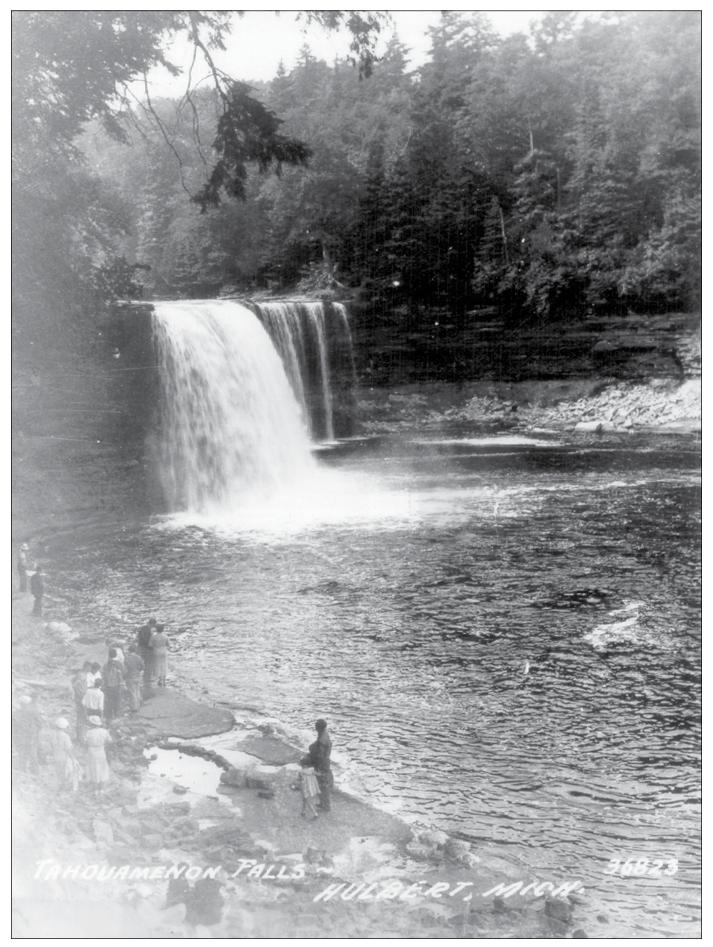
Found along the Lower Falls boardwalk, **nodding** trillium is a unique variety of the more common large white trillium. The flower turns from white to pink as it ages, eventually forming fleshy, bright red berries.





Bluebead lilies are common in the Rivermouth Campground. The blue. fleshy fruit is often mistaken for the wild blueberries that grow nearby.





Before Tahquamenon Falls State Park was established in 1947, visitors came to the Upper Falls by taking the Toonerville Trolley. The excursion involved a narrow-gauge railroad ride from Hulbert to the Tahquamenon River, where visitors would take a boat just above the Upper Falls, then walk down to the waterfall. The Toonerville Trolley still operates today; call 1-888-77-TRAIN for information.



Enjoy Free Fishing Weekends - No license required! June 11-12, 2016 and Feb. 11-12, 2017



Park staff often wear fine mesh bug shirts

Beat the Bugs

Bug season in the eastern U.P. is typically mid-May through mid-July. By taking a few simple steps, you can successfully deal with the bugs and make your trip much more enjoyable.

The first step is to accept and understand the biting insects. Getting annoyed and frustrated will not make them go away. Tackle them from a position of strength.

Purchase a mosquito head net to wear over a baseball cap or brimmed hat. Consider purchasing a long-sleeved mesh bug shirt, designed to keep piting insects from touching your skin. You will notice park staff wearing these throughout the bug

Wear a loose fitting, long sleeved shirt and pants. They not only protect against bugs, but also sunburn and thorny vegetation. Bring a hat or bandana for times when a head net is not needed.

Wear **neutral colors**, such as khaki. Research has shown that flies can see ultraviolet pigments that are present in dark colors and seem to be attracted to them.

Black flies, active from mid-May to mid-June, are small and can fly up your pant legs and through the buttonholes of your shirt. Cover exposed skin and tuck your pants into your boots. Black flies usually don't bite after dark.

A variety of insect repellents can be found on the market, some natural and others with varying concentrations of DEET. Experiment with insect repellent before your trip, especially with children, to note any reactions that may occur.

Keep yellow jackets, hornets and bees away by **not** eating sugary foods outdoors. Resist the urge the swat at them. Stay calm and move away from the

Mosquitoes 101

- Only female mosquitoes bite. They need a proteinrich blood meal to create eggs.
- Male mosquitoes drink nectar from flowers and sap from trees and shrubs.
- Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, which is produced when you exhale. Research shows mosquitoes are more attracted to people that are drinking beer.
- Mosquito saliva contains anticoagulants, which allows blood to flow without clotting. This allows females to feed quickly.
- Proteins in mosquito saliva are responsible for the unpleasant itching and swelling that often accompanies a bite.



Female mosquito feeding.

Winter at Tahquamenon

and there are no biting insects.

Winter camping numbers have increased steadily over the last few years. One of the more unique crowds to camp during winter is a group of Roadtrek RV unit owners. These hardy campers fill the Lower Falls Hemlock Campground (last year there were 31 units) and have an action-packed weekend, including snowshoe hikes and evening bonfires.

"I camp all over North America and I have never seen such a well-run, hospitable campground. This place - winter, summer, spring and fall - is our absolute favorite." – Mike Wendland, Roadtrek camper

Word is spreading – winter is a great time to visit Groups coming to the park to experience the snow- The privately-owned brewery is also open during the Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The crowds have covered forests are also increasing. Whether it's a winter, providing a great place to warm up and refuel dissipated, the scenery is breathtaking, the air is crisp motorcoach full of adventurous ladies from Chicago, or a Scout pack blazing trail on a snowshoe hike, many groups are finding that winter at Tahquamenon is their preferred season.

> "The staff at Tahquamenon is part of what makes down to the viewing areas. Red squirrel, snowshoe winter so special for us. From outfitting snowshoes to hosting an evening bonfire, we love coming here and visiting with them!" – Boy Scout Troop Leader

The Upper Falls is open year-round, with a plowed parking lot and heated restrooms. The walking trail to the falls is snow packed, so snowshoes are not necessary. There is a 3.8-mile groomed crosscountry ski trail, along with a shorter 1-mile loop.

from your adventure.

The driveway down to the Lower Falls is gated in the winter. There is a 2-mile looped trail that begins near the parking area and is perfect for snowshoeing hare and red fox tracks are common along the hike.

The Lower Falls Hemlock Campground stays open all winter, and attracts campers from around the country. "Winter camping started out as just something fun to do. Now it is a passion. We love the staff and park..... and appreciate all they do for us and the other visitors!" – Carolyn Wilson, 10-year winter camping veteran, Bokeelia, Florida.



The Upper Falls is stunning during the winter.

Campfire Cooking

MUFFINS IN AN ORANGE SHELL

6 oranges

1 pkg of just-add-water muffin mix

Mix up the muffin mix as instructed. Cut off the quarter top of the oranges. Carefully scoop out the pulp; do not break the skin. Pour the muffin mix into the oranges. Wrap the oranges in foil, crimping the foil around the hole at the top of the shell, but leaving it open. Place the oranges upright in a stable position on hot coals and cook for 10-15 minutes.



BANANA BOATS

bananas mini marshmallows chocolate chips chopped walnuts

Slice banana lengthwise to make a slit (don't cut all the way through). Stuff banana with mini marshmallows, chocolate chips and walnuts. Close banana and wrap it in foil. Place in fire to heat - banana skin will brown when done. Use spoon to scoop out and enjoy.



BANNOCK ON A STICK

2-3 cups flour

1-2 tbsp baking powder

2-3 tbsp oil or butter

2/3 cup warm water 1 tsp salt (optional) Roasting stick

Mix dry ingredients and oil (or butter) in a bowl with your fingers until crumbly. Slowly add water and mix until dough feels soft. Take a small handful and wrap around the end of a stick, like a marshmallow roast. Knead the dough on the stick so it stays together. Cook over coals for 10-12 minutes, rotating to cook evenly. Eat as is, or add jam or honey.



Don't want to clean up a greasy pan? Cook bacon on skewers over the fire.

North Country Trail



Over 20 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) lies within Tahquamenon Falls State Park, including the popular River Trail between the Upper and Lower Falls. The NCT is America's longest scenic hiking trail stretching 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota, linking 7 states, 10 National Forests and more than 150 public lands.

Keep an eye out for the blue rectangular "blazes" that mark the North Country Trail, and enjoy the scenic beauty that accompanies each step along the way. Whether you hike the trail for an hour, a weekend or a month, the NCT always encourages you to find your own adventure.

The North Country Trail is built and maintained through the sweat equity of hundreds of volunteers dedicated to promote and protect the trail. Local chapters, such as the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter in the eastern U.P., hold monthly hikes, trail working days and special events to encourage participation.

To become more involved with your local North Country Trail chapter, or for more information, visit www.northcountrytrail.org.



Blue blazes and signage marks the North Country Trail.

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